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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 7, 2007  
NR07.02

**FEDERAL FISHERIES AGENCY OFFERS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES  
FOR FISHERMEN CONSIDERING COOPERATIVE FISHERIES RESEARCH**

NOAA's Fisheries Service today announced a new effort to help commercial fishermen in the Northeast to develop, fund and engage in cooperative fishery research aboard their vessels. The agency has published a guide to developing and funding projects, complemented by a website that provides additional information and resources.

The guide is entitled *Working Together: Developing a Cooperative Research Project and Proposal*. It covers such things as identifying a research topic, establishing partnerships with scientists preparing proposals, and administering funds. The website has an online version of the guide, as well as more detailed "how-to" information for cooperative research applicants including priority needs for research, links to potential cooperative research funding sources, and instructions for how to get the permits, if necessary, to conduct research.

"The partnerships forged through cooperative fisheries research -- between industry members, scientists, and managers -- help to improve the quality and expand the kinds of information available to support sound fisheries management decisions," said John Hoey, who manages cooperative research efforts for NOAA Fisheries Service in the Northeast.

The availability of federal funds for cooperative research varies year to year, subject to Congressional appropriations. NOAA Fisheries Service's largest cooperative research program in the region was established in 1999 in conjunction with the New England Fishery Management Council. The Northeast Cooperative Research Partners Program (NCRPP) is one of 6 regional cooperative research programs nationwide. The NCRPP has funded more than \$26 million in cooperative research projects both large and small.

In general, cooperative research provides commercial fishing industry participants more opportunity to provide their empirical knowledge of the sea, and marine life, to scientists and managers. This enhances the science that is used to inform fishery managers.

Print copies of the guide can be obtained by contacting Michael Pentony, NOAA Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, email: [Michael.Pentony@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Pentony@noaa.gov), 978.281.9283.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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On the Web:

Guide for NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Cooperative Research projects:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/StateFedOff/coopresearch/guidelines>

NOAA: [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

NOAA Fisheries Service: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov)

NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Region: [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov)